junasagar-Tirupati has also been identified for intensive development under the National Action Plan for Tourism.

Decongestion of Trunk Routes

1401. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General of Civil Aviation is dragging its feet on the air taxi Operators' (ATC) proposal for staggering flights in a bid to decongest the trunk routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad features of the proposed staggering plan; and

(d) the reaction of the DGCA|his Ministry thereto and how it is ultimately proposed to tackle the situation particularly during the peak hours on the Bombay-Delhi trunk route and balk down the constant fear of mid-air collision presently gripping the frequent air passengers on this busy route?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The staggering of flights is planned to ensure:

(i) Availability of warking bays to aircraft.

(ii) Availability of adequate passenger terminal capacity and baggage conveyor blts.

(iii) Air Traffic control to handle the permitted flights.

(d) Approval of operating schedule of the operators after taking into account the above aspects will help in maintaining standard separation between the aircraft flying on any route in accordance with the provisions laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Decline in I passengers

1402. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that volume of pasengers travelling by Indian Airlines has declined in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government would like to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATOIN AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The passenger carriage by Indian Airlines has declined recently, mainly due to the loss of market to ATOs. Following are the major steps taken to improve the performance of Indian Airlines:—

(i) Product Improvements

— Improvement in service both on ground and on board.

— Improvtment In passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.

— Introduction of Business Class in A-300 aicrraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies

— Incentives|concessions introduced for customers and agents.

— Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational Improvements

— Changes in the organisationa structure and Systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.

— Closer consultation with the employee Unions/Associations to foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

(iv) Increased International operations to usefully deploy available capacity.

(v) Tie up with Air India in several areas like joint venture operatons in the Gulf countries, hub and spoke operations, frequent flier scheme.

Earning of Foreign Exchange by Tourism Department

1403. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out a strategy for adopting a planned approach to tap tourism potential for earning foreign exchange of over Rs. 10,000 crore by 1997;

(b) if so; the details in this respect;

(c) whether it is a fact that hotel industry is required to adopt strategy to provide accommodation to an estimated five million tourists by 1996 97 and providing 1,25,000 hotel rooms in the country;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) what amount at present is being earned by the Tourism Department in foreign exchange and the target for the same fixed for the next three financial years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A tentative action plan has been prepared by the Department of Touism to attract five million foreign tourists and to earn foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 10,000 crores. These targets are now proposed to be achieved by the turn of the century.

(c) It is estimated that 1,25,000 approved hotel rooms would be required to accommodate five million tourists.

(d) A number of incentives and facilities are being provided both by the Central and State Governments for attracting private investment in the hotel industry. In addition, tourism industries including hotels have been declared as a priority sector for foreign investment.

(e) The foreign exchange earning from tourism during 1993-94 is estimated to be Rs. 4573 crores. The projected earnings for the next three years are as given below:

Year	Rs. Crores
1994-95	5200
1995-96	6000
1996-97	7000

Fares charged by International Airlines

1404. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Air carriers have recently agreed to charge pre-specified fares as recorded with the Indian Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.